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# 1 PURPOSE AND NEED

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Fort Belvoir is proposing to improve force protection infrastructure through construction of three projects on US Army Garrison Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia. The new infrastructure would comprise fuel oil and gasoline delivery, storage and distribution facilities, water storage and distribution facilities, and an underground electrical duct bank.

The Project Study Area is a fenced, restricted site that occupies 263 acres (ac) (106 hectares [ha]) in the northernmost section of Fort Belvoir. It is bounded on the north by Telegraph Road, on the east by the Humphreys Engineer Center, on the south by Woodlawn Road (Route 618), and on the west by Beulah Street (Route 613). Fort Belvoir is located in southeastern Fairfax County, Virginia, about 18 miles (mi) (29 kilometers [km]) south of Washington, DC, along the Potomac River (Figure 1-1, Location of Fort Belvoir, and Figure 1-2, Project Study Area).

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates:

- The construction and operation of fuel oil and gasoline delivery, storage and distribution facilities, comprising: an underground fuel oil transfer tank, an underground gasoline storage tank, a fuel oil storage tank farm – located separately from the delivery facilities – and an underground fuel oil pipeline.
- The construction and operation of water storage and distribution facilities, comprising: an aboveground water storage tank, a water pumping station, and an underground water supply line.
- The construction and operation of an underground electrical duct bank.

This EA evaluates the impacts of the proposed infrastructure construction. It has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500-1508, and Army Regulation (AR) 200-2, “Environmental Effects of Army Actions” at 32 CFR Part 651.

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## 1.1 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed infrastructure improvements is to improve force protection for facilities within the fenced, restricted site by providing infrastructure support to critical operations. The fuel oil and gasoline delivery, storage and distribution facilities would reduce

onsite truck traffic by limiting both the frequency of fuel oil and gasoline deliveries, and the extent of delivery vehicle access.

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## 1.2 The NEPA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides for the consideration of environmental issues in federal agency planning and decision-making. Under NEPA, federal agencies must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA) for any federal action, except those actions that are determined to be “categorically excluded.” An EIS is prepared for those federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. An EA is a concise public document that serves to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS. The EA should include brief discussions of the following:

- The need for the proposal.
- The alternatives (as required under Section 102 [2] [E] of NEPA).
- The environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives.
- A listing of agencies and persons consulted.

The EA results in either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) or a decision to prepare an EIS. If the Army were to determine that the Proposed Action would have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, then an EIS would be prepared.

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# Location of Fort Belvoir

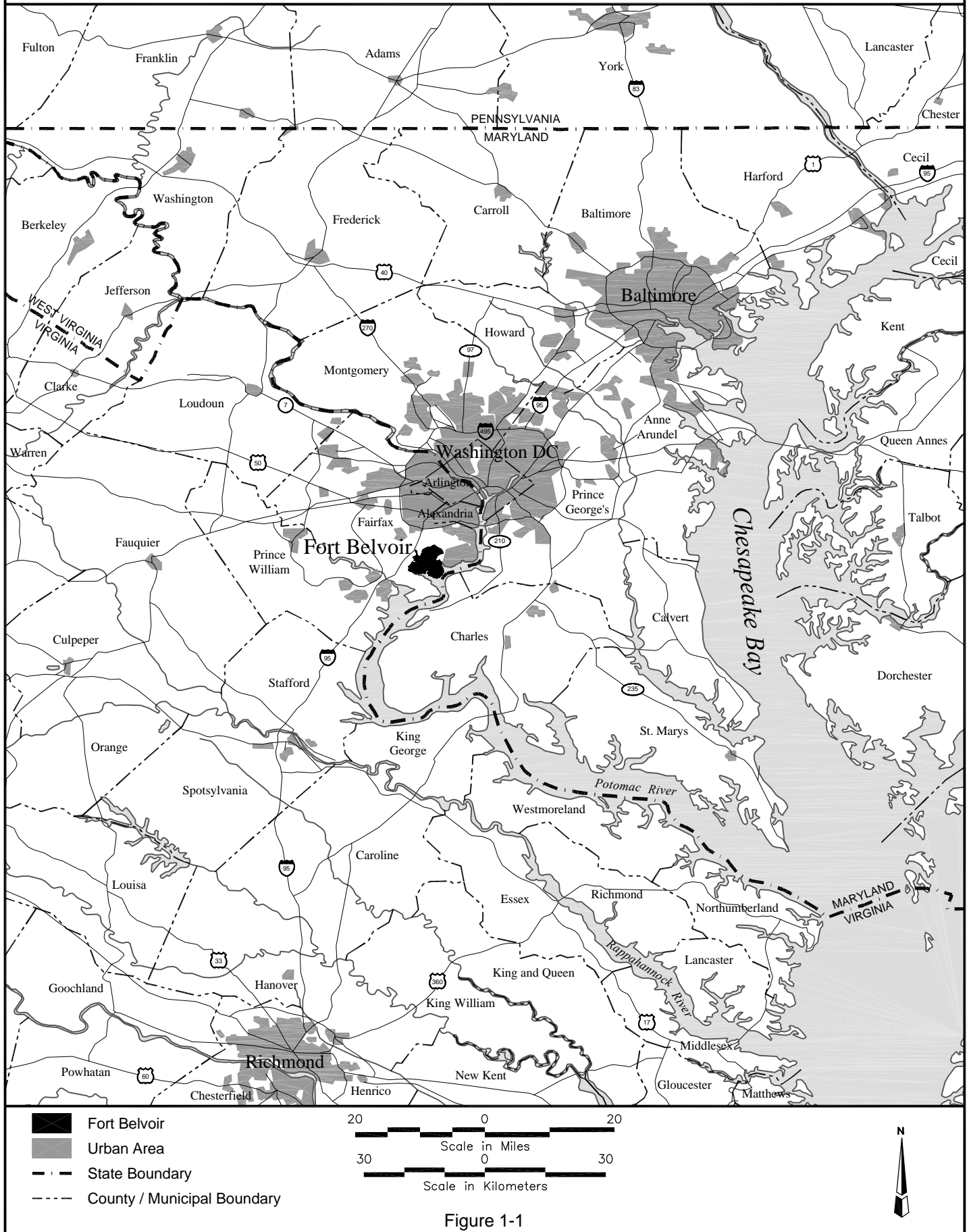
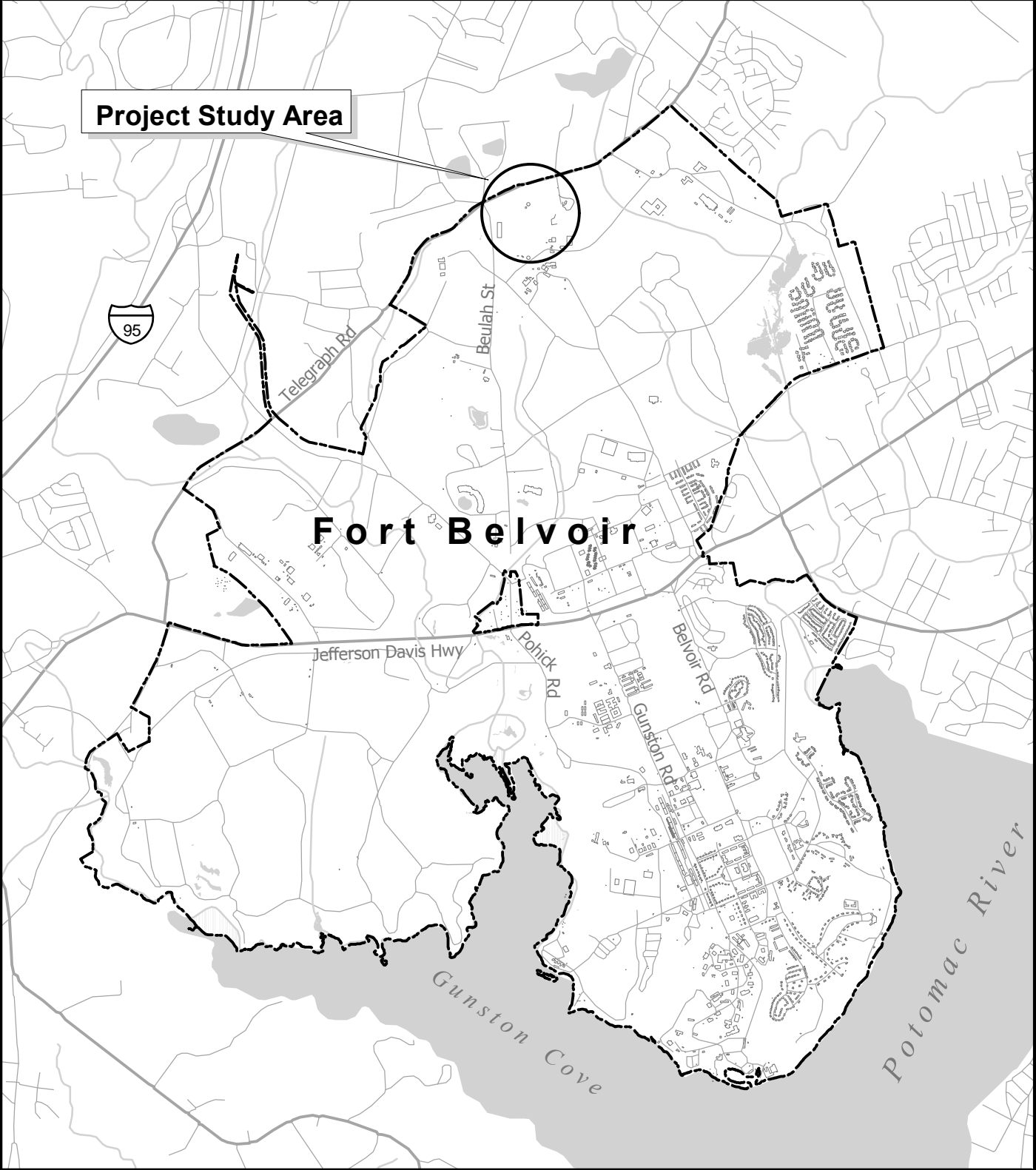


Figure 1-1

# Project Study Area



- Fort Belvoir Property Boundary
- Existing Building



Figure 1-2